

Ser. No. 10/706,718
Amdt. dated January 13, 2005

Remarks

A. Status of Claims

Claims 2, 4-20, and 24-25 are in the case. In the previous office action, claims 1-3 and 15-16 stood rejected, claims 4-14 and 17 were objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim, and claims 18-20 were allowed.

B. Confirmation of Election/Restriction

The Examiner has required restriction between Group I, claims 1-20, and Group II, claims 21 and 23. The applicant hereby confirms election of Group I, claims 1-20. Claims 21 and 23 are herein canceled.

C. Statement Of The Substance Of The Interview

The applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the interview on January 7, 2005. In the interview, the Koong reference was discussed in relation to claim 1. No agreement was reached with respect to the claims. The applicant wishes for issuance of a patent as quickly as possible; therefore, the applicant will pursue rejected claims 1 et al. in a continuing application.

D. Claim Amendments

In this amendment, rejected claims 1, 3, 21, and 23 have been canceled, and objected claims 4, 5, and 17 have been re-written in independent form to include all the limitations of the claims from which they depended. Additionally, the dependency of claims 2, 15, and 16 has been changed from claim 1 to allowable claim 4. Moreover, the limitations of claims 15 and 16 has been added as new claims 24-25, respectively, and both new claims 24 and 25 are dependent

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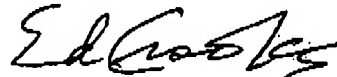
upon allowed claim 19. Finally, the limitations in claims 15-16 has been added to claim 17 solely for the purpose of differentiating claim 17 from claim 19.

D. Summary

As all rejected claims have been canceled or been amended to be dependent upon an allowable claim, and no objected claims still depend from a rejected base claim, issuance of a notice of allowance is earnestly requested. If there are any remaining issues that can be solved by a telephone call, the applicant welcomes such a call.

Respectfully submitted,

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